

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Agriculture Department – Strengthening of Agriculture Extension – Placement of Multi Purpose Extension Officers and Rythu Mithra Groups and formation of Rythu Mithra Groups – Permission for contracting the services of 6354 Multi Purpose Extension Officers (one MPEO for each 1000 ha) – Permitted-Guidelines for recruitment etc., and formation of Rythu Mithra Groups – Orders - Issued.

AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION (AGRI.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 693

Dt.16-12-2014.

Read the following:

1. From the C & DA, AP, Hyderabad Lr.No.Extn/AR/132/2014, dt.20-06-2014.
2. From the C & DA, AP, Hyderabad Lr.No.A5(1) 10/2014, dt.15-07-2014.
3. From the Prl. Secy to Govt (Agri) D.O.Lr.No.5541/Agri.II/2014, dt.23-07-2014.
4. From the C & DA, AP, Hyderabad Lr.No.Ext/RMG/13/14, dt.30-07-2014.
5. G.O.Rt.No.43, Agri 7 Coop (Agri.II) dept, Dt.19-09-2014.
6. G.O.Ms.No.222, Finance (HR.I) Department, dt.15-12-2014.

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The Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad in the letters 1st, 2nd and 4th read above has submitted proposals for abolition of Adarsha Rythus and to replace it with well organized agriculture extension network with qualified Multi Purpose Extension System with one Multipurpose Extension Officer for every 1000 hacters cultivable area with a total of 6354 Multipurpose Extension Officers for net cropped area of 63.54 lakh hacters on contract basis under the control of ATMA in each district and also to form a Rythu Mithra Group for every 100 hacters to fulfill the following objectives:

- To facilitate the effective extension reach to the farming community.
- To address the immediate needs of the farmers during the season in case of unfavorable seasonal conditions.
- Sensitize the farmers on measures to be taken up to enhance the productivity Levels.

2 Accordingly, the Government in G.O. 5th read above has issued orders for abolition of Adarsha Rythus.

3 In G.O. 6th read above, the Finance Department have permitted this department to contract the services of six thousand three hundred and fifty four (6354) Multi Purpose Extension Officers with a consolidated honorarium of Rs.8,000/- per month. They have also ordered for placement of MPEOs in a phased manner with 1/3rd of total MPEOs sanctioned during the current financial year 2014-15 and the remaining 1/3rd during first half of 2015 and the rest in the second half of 2015. The Finance Department have directed

the Agriculture & Cooperation Department to issue necessary guidelines regarding duties and responsibilities, qualifications, recruitment method, detailed procedure for recruitment process etc.

4 Accordingly, the Government hereby order for appointment of MPEOs on contract basis as proposed above and also issue guidelines regarding duties and responsibilities, qualifications, selection procedure for Multi Purpose Extension Officers. The guidelines for formation of Rythu Mithra Groups are also appended in the Annexure.

5 The Commissioner and Director of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad shall take necessary action in the matter and send compliance report to the Government immediately.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

ANIL CHANDRA PUNETHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (AGRI)

To
The Commissioner & Director of Agriculture,
AP, Hyderabad(we)

Copy to:

The Finance (HR.I) Dept
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE TO G.O.RT.No. 693, dt. 16-12-2014.

Duties and responsibilities of Multi Purpose Extension Officers :

- MPEO should reside in the cluster head quarters as decided by the District Administration.
- Should sensitize the farmers on different issues related to crops
- MPEO should assist extension functionaries in communicating needy information to farming community with regard to different departmental schemes and latest/ improved technologies.
- Maintain the record of 1000 Ha in his area with regard to farmer information, cropping pattern, availability of resources etc.,
- Assisting the MAO and other supervisory Officers in field visits.
- MPEO should assist MAO in implementation of different departmental schemes like SVP, NFSM, Polambadi, NMOOP, ATMA etc.,
- Should assist MAO in identification of beneficiaries in implementation of different schemes.
- MPEO has to mobilize farmers for organizing training programmes being conducted by the FTC/KVK/MAO.
- Should mobilize the farmers during the conduct of Grama Sabhas /Rythu Sadassus /Kisan Melas.
- Should actively participate in conduct of surveys with regards to natural calamities, pest outbreaks etc.,
- MPEO has to maintain all the relevant literature as needed by the farming community from time to time and also update the information on village black boards.
- MPEOs have to actively involve in identification of non loanee / tenant farmers and educate them to avail crop insurance and crop loan facilities provided by the Govt.
- Should assist MAO in collection of soil samples and distribution of soil health cards.
- Maintain the information with regard to availability of different types of seeds, farm equipment and other inputs available with in the jurisdiction to educate the farmers for use of available resources.
- MPEOs should also update their knowledge with regard to different schemes of the Line departments for providing necessary information to the farming community.
- Should also attend other duties as assigned by the Supervisory Officers/Govt. Officials.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Educational Qualification: B.Sc., (Ag), B.Sc., (Hort), Agriculture Polytechnic Diploma Holders (ANGRAU recognized) in first preference and B.Sc., (BZC) in second preference.
- Order of preference will be given to candidates having B.Sc., (Ag) Degree followed by B.Sc., (Hort.), B.Sc., (Dry Land Agriculture), Agricultural Polytechnic Diploma issued by ANGRAU and B.Sc., (BZC) Certificates.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

- The selection among the applicants will be made in the following order of preference.

Category- I : B.Sc., (Ag) and B.Sc., (Hort.) and B.Sc., (Dry Land Agriculture).

Category- II : Agricultural Polytechnic Diploma Holders, Diploma in Seed Technology / Plant Protection / Organic Farming (Recognized by ANGRAU)

Category- III : Science Graduates with specialization in Botony.

- The committee will commence the selection first from among the applicants in first category. If sufficient number of candidates are not available, the Committee will select the candidates from among the applicants in second category. If the vacancies are still available, the Committee will select candidates from category III.
- Selection procedure will be 80% merit (Education qualification) and 20% on interview basis
- Maximum Age limit is 40 years with a relaxation of 5 years for SC & ST candidates.
- Selection of 80% candidates from native district and 20% from non-local districts of A.P. State.
- Roaster system and rule of reservation shall be followed as per rules.
- **Selection shall be made by a District Selection Committee with District Collector/Joint Collector as Chairman, JD Agril., as Member Secretary and Horticulture ADA, PD., ATMA, DAATTC coordinator as Members.**
- Selection shall be done through open advertisement.

**Guidelines for formation and Strengthening of
Rythu Mithra Groups**

Objectives:

- To function as the interface between the Agricultural Extension System and Farmers for transfer of technology, access to market information and other farm related advice.
- To act as a clearing house for the pooling of ideas on scientific Agriculture.
- To assess input requirement.
- To act as a conduit in the process of knowledge, training and information and transfer of technologies to all members of the group to achieve maximum production and productivity.
- To take up different development activities like soil testing camps, Animal Health Camps, arranging experts lecturers in Agriculture besides taking up social activities.
- To formulate optimal resource based and market driven farmers strategies.
- To liaise with linkage agencies such as Financial Institutions, Market Yards, Media etc.

Guidelines for formation of New RMGs:

Formation of a Rythu Mithra Group for every 100 hac.

- Every Ten RMGs will be guided and monitored by one Multi Purpose Extension Officer
- Existing RMGs of 16,127 are also be considered duly revisiting the constitution of the groups.
- A District level committee headed by District Collector as Chairman and Joint Director of Agriculture as Convener will monitor the organization and functioning of the RMGs.
- Ensuring the homogeneity of the group comprising of only cultivators of small/marginal farmers / tenants either on commodity basis or of a single issue based.
- The Members of the Group may vary from 10-15.
- Each RMG must have a Convener and Co-convener among the Members for operating the Joint Bank Savings Account.
- Each Member of the Group must pay a membership fee of Rs.100/-

- In each RMG thrift habit may be promoted and minimum monthly savings should be Rs.500/- per month (or As decided by the Group members)
- The Activation of the RMGs and Strengthening will be regulated by the Agriculture Department duly involving the staff of ATMA, Farmers Federations, Associations, NGOs, Agriculture Colleges, Agriculture Polytechnics and KVKs.

Revival of the Existing RMGs:

- The Members of the RMGs may be made homogenous by including or excluding the members of the present group as per the commodity basis or issue based.

Management of RMG:

- One Progressive / Award winning farmer may be selected as RMG Animators to liaison with Multipurpose Extension Officers (MEOs)
- Fortnightly meetings in a democratic and transparent manner.
- Maintenance of registers like minutes book, savings register, loan register, bank passbook and members with individual passbook
- RMG Animators have to work in coordination with the MAO.
- Activities like Establishment of Custom Hiring Centres, Establishment of Vermi-Hatcheries, Technical Upgradation, supply of inputs may be taken up.
- Issue of crop / other loans as per their thrift and group performance
- Review of the performance for every six months

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SECTION OFFICER